Diagnosis or treatment by correspondence: No advertisement should offer to diagnose by correspondence diseases, conditions onany symptoms of ill-health in a human being or request from any person or a statement of his or any other person's symptoms of ill-health with a view to advertising as to or providing for treatment of such conditions of ill-health by Correspondence. Nor should any advertisement offer to treat by correspondence any ailment, illness, disease or symptoms thereof in a human being.

Disparaging references: No advertisement should directly or by implication disparage the products, medicines or treatments of another advertiser or manufacturer or registered medical practitioner or the medical profession.

Crisis in Film Industry

3939. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing costs, eroding market and selling revenue have pushed the film industry into a major crisis, as per the news item titled "Film Industry on brink" which appeared in the Times of India, dated December 23, 1991;

(b) if so, what is Government's own assessment in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to save the film industry from the crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Though cinema is a State subject, considering the influence of this media on masses, the Union Government have from time to time been studying the growth and problems of this sector. Necessary steps are initiated by the Government on the basis of recommendations made by various Committees/Groups etc. In the recent past a High Powered Committee has studied the problems of film industry in its entirety and have made a number of recommendations for affording reliefs/concessions to this sector. A number of recommendations pertain to State Governments as the matters fall entirely within their jurisdiction, and the implementation is being pursued with them vigorously, at the highest levels in the Government.

Procedure to constitute Press Council of India

3949. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

(a) the procedure for constituting the Press Council of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that existing Press Council of India has been constituted in contravention of the Press Council of India Act, 1978 and the Rules framed thereunder; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The procedure for constituting the Press Council of India is laid down in Section of the Press Council Act, 1978 read with rules 3 and 4 of the Press Council (Procedure for Nomination of Members) Rules, 1978.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Interlinking the Second Channels of Delhi Bombay, Madras and Calcutta

3941. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to interlink second channels of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan have been inter-linking the four metro channels for varying durations of time keeping in mind their overall programme requirements for quite some time now.

(c) Does not arise.

Fixing a transponder to counter Pakistani TV Propaganda

3942. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to get

a transponder on the satellite to counter Pakistani TV propaganda; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) The Government have been making efforts to hire requisite capacity in the space segment on a foreign satellite to meet Doordarshan's requirements. Negotiations have been held with the concerned firm but it has not so far been possible to hire such a facility.

Violation of censorship norms

3943. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that violation of censorship norms, particularly by the Video pirates and Cable TV operators, are on the increase in the country; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 any film, whether on video or other formats, intended for public exhibition, is required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. However, from time to time, there have been reports that uncertified video films are being shown. The responsibility for enforcing the penal provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who have been advised time and again for strict implementation of the provisions of the Act and for action against the offenders.

Cable News Network Office in Delhi

3944. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cable News Network (CNN) is going to enter India and they have already started their Bureau Office in Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether they have got permission from Govt. of India to start such an Office ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (c) No formal application from Cable News Network (CNN) has been received in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting or the Ministry of External Affairs for permission to start their Bureau in Delhi. How ever it is understood that Cable News International, INC, Atlanta, USA (CNN) has been granted permission by Reserve Bank of India under Section 29 (1) (A) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. They have also sought accreditation or four Indian nationals.

Decision to make Air and Doordarshan Staff Artists Permanent

3945. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make the AIR and Doordarshan staff artists permanent Government employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the staff artists of the Films Division are also proposed to be made permanent; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The Government have decided that all Staff Artists/Artists under the 1982 scheme working in All India Radio and Doordarshan (except Foreign Nationals) who were in service on 6th March, 1982, or appointed as such thereafter will be deemed as Government servants.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard ?

Interviews for the Posts of ssistant Station Director

3946. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION A BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the interviews for the posts of Assistant Station Director of Doordarshan and All India Radio were conducted in the last part of 1989;

(b) whether a special drive for appointment of S.C. & S.T. Candidates was also made;